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21 March 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion regarding Project Quill

1. A meeting was chaired by Mr. [redacted] on 20 March 1963 in his Office, regarding the security aspects of Project Quill. Those in attendance were Mr. [redacted] Mr. Mazza, Mr. [redacted] Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted]

2. The gist of the matter discussed at the meeting is as follows:

Mr. Mazza: The NRO has received a message from the West Coast regarding "Q" which indicates that Major Bradburn will be coming to Headquarters some time next week to discuss the status of "Q" with the DNRO. I have suggested to the NRO Staff that preliminary meetings involving the NRO Staff and the SSC be held before DNRO makes a decision regarding the future of Project "Q".

Mr. [redacted] Program "B" has very little to offer in this respect since Project "Q" definitely is under the authority of Program A. How close is "Q" to becoming operational?

Mr. Mazza: I do not have the exact date. It is currently regarded as in the research and developmental stages.

Mr. [redacted] The first firing of "Q" is scheduled to take place in the middle of 1963.

Mr. Mazza: The unique aspect of "Q" is that it uses radar. The radar messages are "spit out" at the appropriate signal from the ground control station. If this radar capability was used over a denied area it could trigger an international crisis.

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Mr. Mazza: The current plans are for the radar to be used over the United States only. The question at this time concerns the best cover for "Q". At the current time [redacted] is expected to be the cover mechanism.

Mr. [redacted] What do you think is the best cover arrangement?

Mr. Mazza: As it stands at this time CORONA cleared people know of "Q". "Q" cleared people know that QUILL is a research developmental project which uses radar. (The radar aspects are regarded as Covert) The [redacted] cleared people think that QUILL is just another [redacted] with a recoverable package. The [redacted] people will not see the film. I believe that the proper cover for "Q" is not essentially a security problem but more of a management problem. I don't believe the DNRO has completely thought through the working aspects as to the risks involved with "Q". Since there are risks we must realize that there will be security problems.

Mr. [redacted] I think the concept of "Q" is splendid. We would support it completely. I have been advised that General Greer expects to watch the first LANYARD shot. This concerns me inasmuch as his presence in the area might blow our "skunk works" and focus attention on our CORONA and DISCOVERER people there. (150 people) [redacted] suggests it might be better if "Q" were handled on a black basis and not in the [redacted].

Mr. [redacted] Why not leave "Q" as part of the DISCOVERER program since it involves the Thor-Agena combination?

Mr. Mazza: The Soviets who track our satellites will know that this one has radar on it. The Soviet trawlers that patrol our coast should be able to monitor the radar impulses without any difficulty. We must keep in mind that radar in this nature is a war indicator.

Mr. Mazza: [redacted] was under the impression that "Q" could best remain in the DISCOVERER Program.

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Mr. [redacted]. Both Colonel Ruebel and Colonel Ford seem to be horrified at this suggestion of Rod's. I understand that the recovery package designed by Lockheed should be used for QUILL.

Mr. [redacted] How well known is [redacted]? [redacted] I have been reading about in the press?

Mr. [redacted].

Mr. Mazza: The lid has been put on [redacted] regarding any release of payload data. Security in this respect has been very effective.

Mr. [redacted]. If QUILL is not to be under [redacted] but should be under DISCOVERER what will the problems be?

Mr. [redacted] QUILL is a black program at this time. [redacted] is a Department of Defense SECRET Project. "Q" contains radar and this will be generally known as soon as it goes into operation. For this reason it has been suggested that an Overt Program such as [redacted] would provide the better cover then the black program.

(At this point in the discussion Mr. [redacted] entered the room)

Mr. [redacted] Mr. [redacted], Would you give us some general background information regarding [redacted] as the result of your inspection of this Project last month.

Mr. [redacted] is classified SECRET and is being developed under a Department of Defense White Contract. Since the hold down is only a SECRET classification it is known by an extremely large number of people on the West Coast as a [redacted]. The basic difference between [redacted] and our other programs is that with respect to CORONA approximately [redacted] persons have access to information because of their proximity to the launching pad. There are also approximately [redacted] persons with access to [redacted] on the launching pad but the difference is that anyone with a SECRET clearance can be told of [redacted]. CORONA is held down much more severely. The mating of the [redacted] is done at [redacted] in Sunnyvale, California.

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Mr. [redacted] I have asked [redacted] for a paper on the CORONA Program, with respect to the early conditions under which it operated versus the current conditions. What is especially important to us is a determination as to what is the secret that is being protected. It appears to me that if QUILL to3w under [redacted] cover it will be one more thing that could "water down" the security we have built around CORONA.

Mr. [redacted] In what specific areas will QUILL be associated with [redacted]? Which [redacted] people will be aware of QUILL?

Mr. Mazza: The QUILL Project is using [redacted] cover to order boost for their program.

Mr. [redacted] With respect to the recoverable package of QUILL the Intelligence Community must protect this. Security should consider a modified security plan so that [redacted] could be utilized for the boost for QUILL under a White Contract but that the "skunk works" and the launching pad facilities could be utilized under a black contract basis to afford better protection to the recoverable package.

Mr. Mazza: If the arguement regarding the proper cover for QUILL goes to the DNRO for the final solution the DNRO should be aware of all the risk factors.

Mr. [redacted] Should QUILL be a separate clearance or a part of CORONA. I know this is a political question.

Mr. [redacted] QUILL is not a passive Program. It is an offensive system.

Mr. [redacted] Mr. [redacted] indicates that our concern with QUILL must not result in a compromise in CORONA.

Mr. Mazza: Colonel Martin has indicated he would like the technicians affiliated with QUILL to meet with security representatives to discuss the matter in depth.

Mr. [redacted] Mr. [redacted] should be back from his trip by Monday. I think it necessary that additional discussions be held prior to any position statements made by the Agency to the NRO with respect to "Q".

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Mr. [redacted] From a policy point of view I have been giving some consideration to a plan wherein all satellite programs would be under General Greer. This would mean that CIA would pull all of its security people out of the "skunk works" in similar installations if CIA accepts total security responsibility for projects regarding which we lack complete information. There is an excellent opportunity that security violations might occur because of changes with which we are not in agreement.

(At this point Mr. [redacted] left the meeting)

Mr. [redacted] There are definite political ramifications regarding QUILL. If the USSR would say they have proof that the U. S. is painting the USSR with radar, would we have a definitive position to counteract this charge? The major question for our office is whether the radar capability of QUILL can be utilized without the USSR knowing ~~they~~ we are doing it. If the [redacted] area should be used to "read out" this radar there is no doubt but that the USSR will be aware of the radar capability of this satellite. The question then is whether Security has an obligation to advise the Special Group of the security risks in QUILL because of this political question.

Mr. [redacted] Who has made the determination that radar pictures are war-like actions?

Mr. Mazza: The Pentagon thinks so. They regard radar utilized in this manner as a military weapon and as a war time capability.

Mr. [redacted] This country may be asked by the USSR why the satellite is utilizing another north south orbit if it is not intended to paint the USSR with radar. I believe that the Special Group should be advised of the QUILL Project.

Mr. Mazza: I do not think that there is the serious political issue involved here as you have indicated.

Mr. [redacted] Could the radar capability of QUILL be "read out" elsewhere than on the East Coast? If this is not the case it would appear that the NRO Staff should be advised of our security concern regarding the political ramifications inherent on the QUILL radar being read out by Soviet trawlers. Lou, Do you believe it advisable to

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advise the NRO of this concern on a verbal basis.

Mr. Mazza: No, I think it would be most appropriate if a formal memorandum was forwarded to NRO.

Mr. [redacted] It is my opinion that the use of QUILL definitely involves a security problem inasmuch as there may be a serious political issue arising from the results of the program.

Mr. Mazza: I would recommend that your position in this matter be discussed with Major Bradburn prior to a formal position statement being forwarded to the NRO.

The meeting was terminated with Mr. [redacted] requesting Mr. [redacted] to follow developments regarding the discussions of the representatives from Program A with the NRO Staff.

[redacted]